

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 HA-05 /094 W
-----027721 181347Z /44

P R 181320Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2173
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4824

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CHIRAU ACCEPTS ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT ON AUGUST 17, ZUPO LEADER
CHIEF CHIRAU ISSUED A STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF HIS
PARTY ACCEPTING THE IDEA OF AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.
THE STATEMENT READ, "WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, THE
MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE WANT AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE AND
WE MUST LISTEN TO THEIR VOICE. I WANT TO STRESS THAT WHEN
I SAY THAT AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE
PEOPLE AND NATION, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL WILL LOSE CONTROL. IT DOES NOT MEAN WE WILL
GO BACK IN ANY WAY ON MATTERS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN
AGREED. RATHER IT IS OUR HOPE AND BELIEF THAT BY HOLDING THE
CONFERENCE, WE WILL GO FORWARD IN A SPIRIT OF GREATER UNITY
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AND REPRESENTATION THAN WE HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST."

2. COMMENT: CHIRAU IS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL TO PUBLICLY ACCEPT AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.
SITHOLE HAS RECENTLY HINTED THAT HE MIGHT GO BY SAYING
HE REFUSED TO RULE IT OUT. SMITH HAS SAID PUBLICLY HE
WOULD GO IF HE WERE CONVINCED IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL

(PRETORIA 4708). ONLY MUZOREWA REMAINS ADAMANT IN HIS
REFUSAL TO ATTEND. CHIRAU'S CLEAR AND ENTHUSIASTIC
ACCEPTANCE MAY BE PART OF AN ORCHESTRATED ATTEMPT TO
ISOLATE MUZOREWA IN HIS RELUCTANCE AND FORCE HIM IN THE
DIRECTION THE OTHERS APPEAR TO BE CHOOSING.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, MEETINGS, NATIONALISTS
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Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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